Thyroid Problems Among Urbanites

694. SHRI S. RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI:
SHRI E. BALANANDAN:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the alarming rise in the incidence of Thyroid problems among urbanites;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to combat the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) and (b) There is no scientific date published to demonstrate alarming rise in the incidents of thyroid problem among tranities. However, Iodine Deficiency Disorders (IDD) are widely prevalent in the country. Surverys conducted by the Directorate General of Health Services, Indian Council of Medical Research, State Health Directorates and other institutions clearly indicated that non State/UT is free from the problem of Iodine Deficiency Disorders. Out of 275 districts surveyed so far in 25 States and 4 UTs, 235 districts are endemic where the prevalence is more than 10%.

(c) National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme formerly known as National Goitre Control Programme is being implemented in the country. The Programme strategy includes IDD surverys, supply of iodised salt, monitoring of iodine content of salt as well as Urinary Iodine Excretion and Health Education to increase the public awareness.

Financial Aid for Cancer Programmes

695. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government gives aid to governments/ charitable hospitals to purchase equipment for cancer treatment;

(b) if so, the criteria adopted for giving such grants;

(c) the total budget allocation;

(d) how many such cases are pending with the Ministry Statewise; details thereof; and

(e) by when are they likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI DALIT EZHILMALAI): (a) Yes, Sir. The equipment is provided under the schemes for development of encology wings in medical colleges/hospitals and installation of cobalt - 60 Teletherapy Unit.

(b) The criteria adopted for giving such grants under scheme for development of encology wing and installation of cobalt-60 Teletherapy unit is enclosed at statement (*see* below)

(c) The total budget allocation for National Cancer Control Programme for the year 1998-99 is Rs. 30.00 crores out of which 12.00 crore is for the above schemes.

(d) 19 cases are pending. Details are given statement II. (*See* below)

(e) The Standing Committee meeting on Teletherapy is scheduled to be held in the month of December, 1998 for consideration of the above cases.

Statement

Criteria adopted for giving grants under various schemes of National Cancer Control Programme

1. Recommendation of the State Goernment for release of grant.
2. Geographical distribution such facility in and around the area.
3. Approval of the building drawing plants by BARC for installation of the equipment.
4. Availabilty of infrastructure in the hospital.
5. Financial viability to run such equipments.
6. Inspection by a Central Team alongwith experts in the field.
7. Recommendation of the Standing Committee.
8. Completion of the codal formalities prescribed under guidelines for release of grant.